

SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

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GOVERNOR SIGNS SENATOR SOTO'S BILL TARGETING MOTORISTS HAULING UNSAFE LOADS

New State Law Focuses on Spilled Loads and Clean up Costs

Sacramento – Governor Gray Davis signed SB 624, authored by Senator Nell Soto (D-Ontario), promoting highway safety. This bill requires motorists transporting any material to cover those loads while on California roadways. It includes motorists moving furniture and workers carrying construction material.

“Flying debris, trash and cardboard can be hazardous on the roadways,” claims Soto. “It is dangerous when motorists swerve to avoid hitting debris on the road. I want to thank the Governor for seeing that this simple bill could turn out to be a matter of life or death on our roadways.”

Current law says persons transporting materials are required to cover their loads only when transporting materials to a dumpsite. This new bill includes the hauling of any material to any site. This will help reduce accidents, injuries and the costs associated with the clean up of spilled loads.

The California Highway Patrol reports that last year there were 7,864 collisions caused by drivers striking or swerving to avoid an object on the road. In those accidents, 50 people were killed and over 2,000 injured.

The new law will go in effect on January 1, 2002.

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